

FORD, GEORGE

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COMPARISON

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Abraham Lincoln Comparisons

Gerald Ford

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

LANSKY'S LOOK



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"It's a rush order from the White House . . . Do we have any stovepipe hats in stock?"

Responsive President

By volunteering to appear before a committee of the House of Representatives to answer questions about the pardon he granted to Richard Nixon, President Ford has set an admirable example of open and responsive government. Such readiness to be accountable to Congress gains in significance by its contrast to the Nixon Administration's defiant custom of hiding behind the stone wall of executive privilege.

Mr. Ford's ability to provide full answers to the questions put to him by the Subcommittee on Criminal Justice is essential to understanding of the motives and considerations behind his decision to pardon Mr. Nixon before the judicial process had even begun to run its course. No convincing explanation, for example, has yet been given of why the pardon was granted unconditionally, even though a White House lawyer had apparently been dispatched to Mr. Nixon's California residence with orders to arrange for some acknowledgment of the former President's guilt as a precondition.

Rumors and reports about direct and second-hand appeals to Mr. Ford by Nixon loyalists in and out of the White House remain to be dealt with, as does the advisory role, if any, played by Nelson Rockefeller who had already endorsed a pardon at a time when Mr. Ford himself still publicly maintained that such a step should not be considered in anticipation of forthcoming judicial procedures.

In deciding to appear personally to answer questions, the President is in the good company of George Washington and Abraham Lincoln who also testified personally before Congressional committees—Mr. Lincoln, like Mr. Ford, having volunteered to do so. Entirely apart from the important issues under consideration, the Chief Executive's appearance on Capitol Hill ought to be a signal to Mr. Ford's official family in the White House and throughout his Administration. Far from demeaning the Presidency and other high offices of public trust—as Mr. Nixon protested so unconvincingly while dug in behind his barricades of executive privilege—Mr. Ford's

Visit of President To Congress Panel To Be 2d in History

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Oct. 1—President Ford's scheduled testimony before a house subcommittee would mark only the second time that an incumbent President had appeared in person before a panel of Congress, according to research done last year by the Library of Congress.

The only precedent, the research showed, was an appearance by Abraham Lincoln in 1862 to explain to the House Judiciary Committee how The New York Herald was able to publish his State of the Union Message before the speech had been delivered.

Last night, the White House said that George Washington had testified about an abortive expedition against Indians, but the research shows that Washington only wrote a letter to an Washington did, in fact, testify before the entire Senate in 1789 on the subject of Indian treaties.

In Carl Sandburg's biography of Lincoln, he described an incident in which the President supposedly appeared before a Congressional panel to denounce rumor that his wife was a Confederate sympathizer. Most historians have concluded that no such incident occurred.

Theodore Roosevelt testified twice before panels of Congress after he had left office, once on the subject of his campaign contributions and the other during an investigation of the United States Seel Corporation.

Crooks, courts and cynics

By Sydney Harris

Thoughts at Large:

• Although the late Mayor Daley uttered some solecisms that will live forever in the history of the English language, he never equalled the great Irish bull conceived by Gerald Ford, speaking at a Lincoln Day Republican rally, when he said: "If Lincoln were living today, he would turn over in his grave."

Ann Rutledge.

Out of me unwill'g and unknown
No vibrations of deathless music!
With noise toward me, with thank for all."
Out of me the fireman of million's tears and millions,
And the beneficent face of a nation,
Shining with justice and truth.
I am Ann Rutledge who sleep beneath
These weeds,
Beloved in life of Abraham Lincoln,
Wedded to him not through union,
But through separation.
Blown forever, O Republic,
For the dust of my dream.

September 23, 1933 - Edgar Lee Masters

September 23 - 1933

September - 23 1619
314 years
E. L. M.

184. MASTERS, EDGAR LEE. 1869-1950. American poet, writer and lawyer; his childhood spent in Petersburg, Illinois; noted for his Spoon River Anthology, and especially for his poem Ann Rutledge. Autograph Manuscript (Faircopy) Signed of his beloved poem Ann Rutledge, penned on a quarto leaf of 17th century parchment. No place, September 23, 1933. On the verso appears a contemporary "September 23, 1619" docket. Masters has noted this, and penned the two dates at the conclusion of the manuscript, noting that 314 years had elapsed. Accompanying this choice manuscript which tells of the fabled love of the youthful Abraham Lincoln for Ann Rutledge, is a postcard picture of Masters's boyhood home in Petersburg, and two different postcard pictures of Ann Rutledge's grave in Petersburg, showing these very words of Masters on her tomb stone. There is also a printed portrait of the poet. Faircopies of Ann Rutledge are very rare, this being only the second we have handled. Fine condition. 500.00

5-1782

185. IN PRAISE OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN
FORD, GERALD R. President and Vice President. Magnificent Typed Letter Signed "Jerry Ford", on his gilt-imprinted stationery bearing the seal of the presidency. Full page, small quarto. [Rancho Mirage, California] March 13, 1976. To Master Raymond Lawing. Original addressed envelope bearing Ford's facsimile franking signature. Ford responds to the young man's letter asking whom he admires the most. "...I truly admire President Abraham Lincoln. I admire him because of his honesty, integrity and utmost dedication to the American people. He was a man of reason and a man of hope. President Lincoln acknowledged the grave flaw of our first 87 years of existence -- slavery, and made the first positive steps towards changing it. Abraham Lincoln rekindled the pride in America...." Pristine condition, and truly choice! 650.00

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